

## Good Christians, One and All, Rejoice (stanzas 1-5)

1. Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice.  
With exultation springing,  
    And with united heart and voice  
    And holy rapture singing,  
Proclaim the wonders God has done,  
    How His right arm the vict'ry won.  
What price our ransom cost Him!
2. Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay;  
    Death brooded darkly o'er me.  
Sin was my torment night and day;  
    In sin my mother bore me.  
But daily deeper still I fell;  
    My life became a living hell,  
    So firmly sin possessed me.
3. My own good works all to naught,  
    No grace or merit gaining;  
Free will against God's judgment fought,  
    Dead to all good remaining.  
My fears increased till sheer despair  
    Left only death to be my share;  
    The pangs of hell I suffered.
4. But God had seen my wretched state  
    Before the world's foundation,  
And mindful of His mercies great,  
    He planned for my salvation.  
He turned to me a father's heart;  
    He did not choose the easy part  
    But gave His dearest treasure.
5. God said to His beloved Son:  
    "It's time to have compassion,  
    Then go, bright jewel of My crown,  
    And bring to all salvation  
From sin and sorrow set them free;  
Slay bitter death for them that they  
    May live with You forever."

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; translation: Richard Massie, 1800-87